

BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE NEGRO  
WELFARE LEAGUE OF  
NEW JERSEY

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Thursday, Jan. 16th, '19.

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Managers of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey was held on the above date in the Society's new building at 212 Bank Street.

Dr. Vail, the President was unable to attend on account of illness. As Mr. Augustus V. Hamburg, the 1st President of the Society was present, Rev. J. D. Bolden, 3d Vice President, requested him to take the chair, which he did for half an hour.

The following members were present:-

Rev. J. D. Bolden	Miss Helen Pendleton
Mr. C. M. Brown	Mrs. C. M. Scott
Mrs. W. R. Granger	Rev. H. K. Spearman
Mrs. M. B. Gregory	Mr. Whitehead
Mr. A. V. Hamburg	Mrs. S. H. Little
Mrs. James Holmes	Miss Jessie B. Condit
Mrs. R. C. Jenkinson	Mrs. Elvisee Hilton
Rev. Davis W. Lusk	Mrs. W. J. Green
Mr. A. W. MacDougall	Mr. C. L. Nevius
Mrs. R. Morryck	

Mr. Ashby - Executive Secretary  
Miss Pinyon, Associate Secretary  
Mrs. E. F. Shrubey, Matron of the Home.

Also there were a number of visitors including, -

Mr. Eugene Kinokle Jones of New York,	
Mrs. Douglas,	Mrs. Malone
Rev. Ellerson	Mrs. Connors
Mrs. Munroe	Mrs. Peterson
Mrs. Hughbanks	Mrs. Christmas
Mrs. Scott	Mrs. Kate Johnson
Mrs. Carter	Rev. Onque.
Mrs. Sherman	
Mrs. Bryant	
Mrs. B. A. Johnson	
Mrs. Wesley	

The roll call showed a quorum of voting members present, so the meeting proceeded. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

The report of the Treasurer was read and placed on file, this being the same report given at the last Executive Committee meeting. See report.

Just here Mr. Hamburg had to leave to attend another meeting, and Rev. J. D. Bolden took the chair.

Dr. Luak, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, asked the Secretary to read his report which was as follows:

"The Executive Committee has been held regularly, also special meetings, since the June Board of Managers' Meeting.

Important discussion concerning the purchase of the new house at the last meeting has resulted in our present quarters. On the first of October this present building was bought at a cost of \$14,000. - Mr. James P. Dusenberry kindly taking charge of the building fund for this purpose.

Mrs. Felix Fuld, who was interested in the work by Mrs. Richard C. Jenkinson has collected personally over \$5000.

Mr. Ashby, our Executive Secretary since September, 1917, accepted a position with the United States Government under Dr. George B. Hayses, Director of Negro Economics in the Department of Labor. Mr. Ashby's office is at 9 E. Franklin Street, with the Federal-State Employment Bureau, and General Bryant.

Since it has become absolutely necessary to have someone carry on the work of the League, the Executive Committee asked the advice of our National Urban League with which we are affiliated, and through Mr. Jones we have secured the services of Miss Josephine Pinyon who has had wide experience as a teacher, and has been with the Y.W.C.A. Miss Pinyon took up her work with the League on January 24, and will have entire charge of it while Mr. Ashby is on leave of absence. Such volunteer assistance as Mr. Ashby can give to Miss Pinyon will be of great help.

The Executive Committee has also authorized an Opening Day for our new building, which will take place on January 29th from 3 - 10 P.M. The various committees have charge of this opening day, and we hope there will be a large attendance, and hope those who come will register their names so that we will know how many friends call during these hours.

The Committees of the League have not been active since the last meeting, but I hope they will now be reorganized."

After the reading of the report, it was accepted.

Mr. Ashby at this point stated that the Chairman was mistaken in saying that Mrs. Fuld was interested in the work by Mrs. Jenkinson, and had personally collected over \$5000. Mr. MacDonnell suggested that Mr. Ashby's remarks be placed on the minutes, as there was no need for discussing this question.

The Chairman then called for the report of the Secretary, but as the Society has practically suspended business for the last two months, Miss Pinyon, the new Associate Secretary, was called upon to make a few remarks. Miss Pinyon apologized for having no report from the Ex. Secy., the two weeks of her time here had been used up mostly in securing janitors service, and getting out invitations for the opening on January 20th.

Next in order, was election of new members who had come in since June 1918. Mrs. Gregory, as Chairman of the membership committee, read a list of 109 names, and after some discussion it was voted that those who appeared on the list for the first time as members, be received as members of the League. The discussion brought out the fact that during the summer and fall some confusion has resulted in recording membership fees, and it was decided that hereafter (1) all members be notified when their dues have expired; (2) the names of members already enrolled, be carried over as a blanket list from meeting to meeting, and only the names of new members be read for approval, at each Board of Managers meeting. A list of names as read is attached to this report.

A question arose concerning the sum of \$27. turned over to the Committee, December 2d, by Mrs. E. P. Shrubey. Mrs. Shrubey explained that this was not money for membership fees, and that such money that was received was always turned over with the proper list of names attached.

There being no old business left over from the June meeting, the Chairman called for new business, and the Secretary read the minutes of recommendations of the Executive Committee of the League, to the Board of Managers, concerning the adoption of the name, Urban League in place of the present name, Negro Welfare League of New Jersey. (See copy of recommendations.) It seemed advisable to first discuss and act upon the adoption of the term Urban League; and secondly upon the limiting adjective, whether New Jersey or Newark. Mr. E. K. Jones from the National Urban League Office, New York, spoke briefly of the advantages of being allied, formally, with a national organization, and of taking part in a national program of effective work, and explained that the change of the name would by no means bring with it any power of control from the national office of the League; that affiliated branches of the League have full control of their individual plans of management, and may secede from the parent organization at will.

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The Chairman threw the matter open to the house for discussion and asked that everyone express an opinion on the advisability of the change of name at this time. Mr. Ashby, speaking, said that he favored the change, but felt that it was unwise at this time, because of the newness of the work and the present confusion in regard to the relationship between the League and the Phyllis Wheatley Home Association. Mr. C. M. Brown, speaking, said the matter had been brought up in the N. Y. Committee meeting and fully discussed. He could not understand any wish to postpone the change; objected to the word Negro being so prominent and recommended a change to Nat'l. Urban League, Newark Branch. Mr. VanHuren Powell recommended retaining the present name under which the work has made wonderful strides, but favored omitting the word Negro. Mrs. Gregory registered opposition to any change, saying that the work was too new and little known for any such innovation, she also objected to the word Negro. Mrs. C. M. Scott approved heartily of Mrs. Gregory's point and felt that two changes within four years was very unwise. Mr. MacDougall said that the fact that the work of the League is new, is a good argument for making the change now and not waiting until it becomes strongly established under the present name. Miss Pendleton read a letter from Mr. Elmendorf, regretting his inability to be present at the meeting and expressing himself as being in favor of the title of New Jersey Urban League, Newark Branch, as one inclusive enough to make possible enlargements of the sphere of work. He had also received a verbal message from Mr. R. W. Stewart favoring the change.

Miss Pendleton in speaking, referred to the points made by Mr. Jones and Mr. MacDougall; urged thinking of the future of the work, rather than its present state; referred to the motto, which disproves the fact of its being a NEGRO Welfare League and warned against self-segregation. Mrs. Douglas spoke not as a voting member, but as a working member, protesting against any change of name, saying that the work would be judged by its merit and not by its name; that the name NEGRO would not segregate the organization any more than the word Jewish segregated similar organizations among Hebrews. Mr. C. M. Brown speaking again, said that he felt uniting with the Nat'l. Urban League would bring much strength and unity to the League work. Mr. Ashby objected to this, on the ground that there was unity with the National body at present, so that a change of name is unnecessary to bring this about. Dr. Hook said that he could not understand the objections presented because the matter had been under discussion for some time and had seemed to meet with general approval. He expressed his faith in Mr. Jones, who spoke as one who had a national

experience and point of view. He moved in favor of the change to Urban League; motion was seconded by Mrs. Little. Before the question was called for, Miss Pinyon spoke as one coming from five years experience with a national organization of the great advantages of being identified with a body that had national recognition, and of the danger of acquiring a purely local point of view. Mr. Ashby objected, saying that the League is at present closely identified with the Urban League and that it is simply a question of policy as to whether or not the change should be made now. The chairman, Rev. Holden, spoke, saying that if the Executive Committee saw the wisdom of making a change at this time, there should be no strong objection to it. He reminded those present that there are already two other organizations in the State whose names are constantly being confused with the name of this organization, and felt that conditions warranted a change now. Mr. Jones, from New York, reminded the group of the League's purpose, to work not as Negroes for Negroes alone, but also for the education and broadening of the vision of White people.

At this point the chair called for a standing vote from the house, and Dr. Lusk's motion was carried 26 - 15. Then a roll call was made of the members of the Board of Managers present, with the following result - Voting "Aye" - Rev. Holden, Mr. C. M. Brown, Mrs. Jenkinson, Dr. Lusk, Mr. MacDougall, Mrs. Moryck, Mrs. Hilton, Mrs. Little, Mr. Nevius, Miss Pendleton, Mr. Powell, Miss Condit, total twelve. Voting "No." - Mesdames Gregory, Holmes, Scott, Green, Rev. Spearman, Mr. Whitehead, total, six.

Then a motion was made by Mr. Nevius, seconded by Miss Pendleton, that the name be changed to New Jersey Urban League, Newark Branch, motion carried. 173

Mrs. Gregory then presented a resolution expressing the appreciation of the Welfare League to the Children's Aid Society, for the use of their building. It was moved, seconded, and carried, that this resolution be accepted and adopted, and a copy sent to the Children's Aid Society; The second resolution was an appreciation of help given by the Phyllis Wheatley Literary Society to the League by raising \$500. for the building fund; a third resolution was offered by Dr. Lusk in appreciation of the services of Miss Virginia Robinson; and the fourth, offered by Mrs. Gregory, that the League express its appreciation of the work done by Mr. Ashby while Executive Secretary of the League. These resolutions were all adopted and the Sec'y. requested to send out the proper letters.

Mr. Whitehead made a motion, which was duly seconded and carried, that there be appointed a committee of three to consult

with the City Wide Community on the Welfare of Colored Boys of Newark. This matter was referred to the Executive Committee for action.

Mrs. Shrubsey asked that Mr. MacDougall confer at the end of the meeting with members of the Phyllis Wheatley Home Committee concerning certain business matters. Mr. MacDougall consented to do this.

Mr. C. M. Brown brought up the question of placing the matron of the Home on the Executive Committee. Some discussion followed as to whether this body could do so, but the matter was brought to no final agreement or discussion as to the possibility of doing this, as the Chairman decided not to entertain the motion.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried and Rev. L. B. Ellerson dismissed the meeting with a benediction.

H. B. Ellerson  
Secretary.

From combined notes  
of J. P. + H. B. P.

## REASONS FOR CHANGING THE NAME

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First, the name Negro Welfare League of New Jersey, is not altogether agreeable to a large number of colored people. Not because the colored people object to the word "Negro" which is more and more becoming honored and respected in our country and to which they as a race are loyal, but because it seems to emphasize a racial difference and possibly separate the work from other Civic efforts.

Secondly, our League really stands for the working together of colored people and white people, not as colored people nor as white people, but as citizens, and we want to emphasize that more and more. In fact, we hope that the day will soon come, when those of us who are in the work shall be so interested in what we are doing that we shall entirely forget the fact that some of us have dark complexions and others have light. That is the democratic goal we should strive to reach.

Thirdly, the National Urban League is rapidly becoming known all over the country, and in twenty cities now, there is a branch and in this part of New Jersey we should fall in line especially, as we are so near the parent stem in New York. As we are striving for close cooperation and the working together of all the colored people in this neighborhood, we could simply be called

"THE NEW JERSEY URBAN LEAGUE"

(For Social Service among Negroes)